Protection of medicinal plants

1520. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medicinal plants in the country are rapidly on extinct;

(b) if so, the steps taken by his Ministry to protest the medicinal plants in the country;

(c) whether any action plan has been formulated for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There is no evidence that medicinal plants are becoming extinct rapidly in the country.

(b) to (d) However, Government have taken steps to encourage conservation and cultivation of plants species through various schemes such as *in-situ*/*ex-situ* conservation, Biosphere Reserves, establishment of Gene Banks and developing Agro-techniques. A Medicinal Plants Board has also been set up which will coordinate activities relating to conservation and cultivation of medicinal plants.

Permission for new drug

1521. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received during the year 2001, for new drug permission, Bio-equivalence permission;

(b) how much time it will take to grant the final permission on these applications;

(c) whether DCGI has discretionary powers in granting the new drug permission; and